

## WHY MARK DIDN'T TALK.

August Personage at the Table Had a Monopoly of It.

A couple of days ago a gentleman called upon me with a message (from the German emperor). . . . The wording of the message was:

"Convey to Mr. Clemens my kindest regards. Ask him if he remembers that dinner, and ask him why he didn't do any talking."

Why, how could I talk when he was talking? He "held the age," as the poker-clergy say, and two can't talk at the same time with good effect. It reminds me of the man who was reproaching a friend, who said:

"I think it a shame that you have not spoken to your wife for 15 years. How do you justify it?"

"I didn't want to interrupt her."

If the emperor had been at my table he would not have suffered from my silence, he would only have suffered from the sorrows of his own solitude. If I were not too old to travel I would go to Berlin and introduce the etiquette of my own table, which tallies with the etiquette observable at other royal tables. I would say: "Invite me again, your majesty, and give me a chance;" then I would courteously waive rank and do all the talking myself. I thank his majesty for his kind message, and am proud to have it and glad to express my sincere reciprocation of its sentiments.—From Mark Twain's Autobiography in the North American Review.

## THE SUNFLOWER AND QUININE.

Discovery Made That Plant Yields a Splendid Febrifuge.

An eminent Spanish professor has made the discovery that the sunflower yields a splendid febrifuge that can be used as a substitute for quinine. More than ten years ago Moncorvo reported to the Therapeutical society of Paris with reference to the same subject. Accordingly the sunflower should not only by its growing exert great fever-dispelling effect, but also yield a product which is used advantageously in all fevers.

The common sunflower is an American plant. Its original home is stated by eminent botanists to be Peru and Mexico.

The Russian peasantry seem to be convinced that the plant possesses properties against fever, and fever patients sleep upon a bed made of sunflower leaves and also cover themselves with them. This use has recently induced a Russian physician to experiment with a coloring matter prepared from sunflower leaves, and it is stated that he has had good results with the coloring matter and with alcoholic extracts from the flower and leaves. With 100 children from one month to 12 years old he has, in the majority of cases, effected a speedy cure as otherwise with quinine.

## A Cruel Religion.

"It is all very well," said the lecturer, "to say that other religions are as good as ours. Take Mohammedanism, for instance, that cruel creed. Take the 'Lord's prayer' of Mohammedanism, the prayer that is repeated daily in every Mohammedan household and mosque. This is it:

"I seek refuge with Allah from Satan, the accursed. In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Oh, Lord of all Creatures, Oh, Allah, destroy the infidels and polytheists, thine enemies, the enemies of the religion! Oh, Allah, make their children orphans and defile their abodes, households, and their women, and their children, and their possessions, and their race, and their wealth, and their lands, as booty to the Moslems. Oh, Lord of all Creatures!"

## In a Manner of Speaking.

A Scotch witness was being examined as to the sobriety of the defendant, and, in his anxiety not to express an unfavorable opinion, had made so many evasive answers that both judge and counsel became exasperated.

"Now, sir," cried the judge, "answer the question. Was he or was he not intoxicated?"

"Aweel," said Sandy, "I wullna deny that he was intoxicated in a manner o' speakin'."

"And pray, sir, what do you mean by that?" roared the justice.

"I mean," Sandy replied, very calmly, "that he could walk straight, but he could na talk straight."—Harper's Weekly.

## Just a Boy.

"Hold on!" said the learned chemist. "Didn't I give you a bottle of my wonderful tonic that would make you look 20 years younger?"

"You did," replied the patient, "and I took it all. I was then 39 and now I am only 19."

"Well, then will you please settle this little bill you owe for the treatment?"

"Oh, no. As I am only 19 now, I am a minor and minors are not held responsible for the bills they incur. Good-day, sir."

## Calling the Turn.

"I suppose," said the city girl who was passing a week in the country, "that you know all the different flowers."

"I reckon mebbly I do," replied the old farmer.

"What does a forget-me-not look like?" queried the girl.

"Oh," replied the horny-handed son of toil, "it's just a ordinary knot in a string th' ole woman ties around my finger when I go t' town an' she wants me t' git sunthin' for her."

## MEAN THING.



Mrs. Peace—My husband and I never dispute before the children. We always send them out when a quarrel seems imminent.

Miss Sharp—Ah, I've often wondered why they're so much in the street.

## A NATURAL QUERY.



Author—I have here an essay on the decline of the drama.

Editor—How many have you had declined?—Philadelphia Press.

## EXPLAINED.



Ethel—I hear that Jack kissed Miss Coldcash in the dark last night.

Maud—Well, if you ever saw her in the light you would understand it.—Chicago Journal.

## OMINOUS.



Mayme—Do you think he will change his mind about gettin' married?

Eddyne—I'm awfully afraid. He's readin' nothin' dese days except about dese rich people's divorce scandals.—Chicago Daily News.

## TO BE EXPECTED.



Muriel—Some men think more of their typewriters than of their wives. George—Of course, they can dictate to their typists.

## Safety in Railway Travel.

Within the past few months railway accidents of unusual fatality have drawn public attention strongly to what has become almost a national disgrace. When the president of the Southern railroad was killed, a question leaped simultaneously into many minds: "If the head of a great system cannot secure safety in his private car and on his own lines, what chance has the general public?" As 10,000 persons are killed and several times 10,000 others injured on the railroads of the United States every year, the question is pertinent. Comparisons of American roads with those of England are frequent. It is true that many more passengers are killed or injured in the United States than in England, in proportion to the whole number carried; yet we should consider, by way of explanation, not of excuse, that in Great Britain distances are short, and roads are double-tracked, solidly-built, well-maintained and free from grade crossings. Here the enormous length of some of the lines makes the expense of double-tracking them prohibitive. The same cause also necessitated here an economy of original construction unknown abroad. But these conditions render all the more necessary the adoption of every available invention to overcome the disadvantages which make travel unsafe, says Youth's Companion. Many such inventions are in general use—some of them more extensively than in Great Britain. Others were not generally introduced until the companies were forced by law to adopt them. There are two things which would do more than anything else to lessen the number of railway accidents in the United States. One is to train the independent and self-confident spirit of the American railway employee to such a sacred sense of the duty of obedience that he "would as soon think of murdering his mother as of disobeying an order or running by a signal." The other is the establishment of an authoritative body empowered to investigate accidents, place responsibility and command obedience. In England railway accidents are investigated by the board of trade, a department of the government. The decision is prompt, the finding impartial. If any precaution for safety has been omitted, the public knows it, and public opinion is, in such cases, as effective as an act of parliament. The investigation in most of the states of the union is made by the company itself, and the accident is usually found to have been "unavoidable."

The name of bridge probably grew out of the Russian word "biritch," which is called out when the player declares no trumps, says Scribner's. The appearance in England between 1883 and 1886 of a pamphlet on "biritch," or Russian whist, failed to attract much attention at that period, but during the ensuing ten years the present natural offshoot of the Russian form of play—one variety of which is called leralasch, teralache, yelarsch, by Sir Horace Rumbold—became everywhere quite a favorite pastime. The game is said by some to have originated at Athens, although it is known to have been played, practically in its present form, throughout Turkey, Greece, Egypt and along the Maritime Alps for actually more than 36 years under the name of khedive.

While still duke of Brabant, before his accession to Belgium's throne, he lost his only son, who died after a mysteriously sudden illness. Crown Prince Rudolph, of Austria, the king's son-in-law, met a violent death in the hunting lodge at Meyerling. In the latter part of the king's month of fate, in January, 1890, the palace at Laeken burned, and Princess Clementine, who barely escaped with her life, was so overwrought by the sight of her governess perishing in the flames that for many months it was feared she would lose her reason in precisely the same manner in which Leopold's only sister, the ex-Empress Carlotta, lost hers. The latter's definite insanity also, curiously enough, dates from January.

"The elephant's trunk," says Dr. Ray Lankester, "originated through a shortening of the lower jaw. Therefore I am sorry to upset Mr. Rudyard Kipling's explanation that the length of the trunk was accounted for by its having been pulled by the crocodile."

A French academy hopes to complete the letter "C" of the eighth edition of its dictionary by the end of next session. The edition was begun in 1877, so that at that rate the entire work will be finished in 250 years.

A young English sprig of nobility has come over here wearing a huge gray shawl instead of an overcoat. Don't laugh. It won't prevent him from copping out an heiress.

The palmist who complains that his diamond was stolen has probably concluded that there are various ways of palming.

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## Have Ashes of Great Leader.

It is not generally known that the ashes of the famous theosophist Mme. Helena Blavatsky are in New York city. They are burned in a niche of Aryan Hall, No. 144 Madison avenue, where the Aryan Theosophical society holds its meetings.

## As in Real Life.

Opportunity knocked once at a man's door. But the man was out just then, wrestling from a reluctant world the wherewithal to feed his wife and babies. Opportunity passed on. It mostly always happens like that.—Judge.

## Cape Cod Boot to Come Off.

The great boot of sand known as Cape Cod is to be cut off from the mainland of Massachusetts by a ship canal, which will reduce the coastwise distance from New York to Boston more than 200 miles.

## Swiss Fond of Chocolate.

Switzerland produces more chocolate than all other countries combined, and the Swiss consume more of the article in proportion to the population than any people in the world.

## One of Life's Oddities.

It is queer that other makes some men break forth into song, while noting short of the forcible administration of an anesthetic will make some vocalists stop singing.

## Holy Living.

While high thinking does not always prevent low living, it is also most true that there can be no high and holy living without high and holy thinking.—Rev. J. McLeod.

## Up-to-Date Chinese Bandits.

Mounted on bicycles 20 Chinese bandits raided a tobacco shop near Peking recently and made off with the contents of the safe.

## Large Sum Collected Daily.

It is said the United States government receives \$668,000 each working day from customs collected in New York city.

## Professional Handicap.

Goethe: All professional men are handicapped by not being allowed to ignore things which are useless.

## Paper Used in Books.

It is estimated that only about six per cent. of the paper produced is used for making books.

## Italian Proverb.

Old be your flah, your oil, your friend.—Italian.

## THE WORLD'S GREAT MEN.

Vote by Japanese School Children—Washington and Lincoln Lead.

Dr. Yamakawa, formerly president of Tokio University, recently offered to present a picture of a famous man or woman to the Iriye primary school at Higo and asked that a vote of the children should be taken to choose the subject of the portrait. The 343 boys and girls attending the school were consequently requested a day or two ago to write down the name of their favorite great man or woman. Washington and Lincoln came out at the head of the list with 69 and 53 votes, respectively, while Admiral Togo was a bad third with no more than 28. Fourth on the list was Ninomiya Santoku, a famous philanthropist of olden days, who endeavored to construct a canal at Kioto at his own cost for the benefit of the people. The fifth was another American, Benjamin Franklin, with 21 votes, and after him came Kusunoki Masashige (Nanku), 14; Miss Florence Nightingale, 13; Wagon Kiyomaro (a famous Japanese loyalist), 12; Marquis Oyama, 11; Nelson, 11; Toyotomi Hideyoshi, 7; Gen. Kodama, 7; Saigo Takamori, 7; Nakaye Toju, 6; Admiral Uru, 6; Murasaki Shikibu, 5; Bismarck, 5; Sugawara Michizane, 4; Commander Hirose, 4; Napoleon, 4. A few votes each were cast for President Roosevelt, Nijima Jo, Galileo, Columbus, Socrates, Count Katsura, Premier Saloni, Marquis Yamagata, Gen. Noxi, Peter the Great and Admiral Makharoff.

## DANCING DAYS NOT OVER.

Elderly Ladies Still Enjoy the Pleasures of the Waltz.

An early caller at a West Side flat was received by the small girl of the family.

"Is your grandmother in?" asked the visitor.

"No," said the child; "she has gone to dancing school."

"To—what?" exclaimed the visitor.

"Dancing school," repeated the girl.

"Grandmother has been taking dancing lessons all season."

"Merciful heavens!" gasped the visitor.

Then, being a grandmother herself, of the old-fashioned type, she went away dumb with amazement. However, upon inquiry she learned that that particular grandmother was not exceptionally giddy.

"Any number of elderly ladies are attending dancing school this season," said a teacher. "I have a large class of grandmothers. They do not confine themselves to simple dances, either, but take up all kinds of fancy, difficult steps. They do it to get limbered up and keep themselves young."—N. Y. Press.

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## MARRIAGE LICENSES.

The following marriage licenses have been issued from the county clerk's office within the past few days:

April 24—Anastacio Maes Francisco Torres, both of Raton.

April 24—Luigi Asti and Maria Rodolli, both of Koehler.

April 24—Paul Brunett and Camilla Brondi, both of Dawson.